

## WE BELIEVE – Jesus SAVES 1.8.17 #cccsermons

Last week, we started the *WE BELIEVE* series with the first of the sixteen fundamental truths of the A/G, that we believe that **the Bible is inspired by God and that it declares His design and plan for mankind**. Today we look at the first cardinal doctrine and the fact that Jesus saves.

- **Acts 4:12** (NIV) *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.*
- Today, many argue that Jesus is just one of many ways to salvation, but Jesus himself claimed in **John 14:6** (NIV) *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*
- The truth that **JESUS IS** the **SOLE** means of obtaining God's grace and the only hope of approaching God is **foundational to the teachings of Christianity** and the Assemblies of God and Chester Christian Center.

Our world is searching for a Savior, but they are looking in all the wrong places.

- We were all created in His image with a spiritual **THIRST** for something greater than ourselves (see **Ecclesiastes 3:11**). This means that we can never be completely **SATISFIED** with earthly pleasures and pursuits.
- When we try to quench our spiritual thirst in anything other than God, we are left thirsty. (see **John 7:37-38**)
- There are so many religions and denominations that believe and preach that you have to earn your way into heaven, nirvana, or paradise. Yet, that's not what the Bible and the New Testament says about salvation.
- **Ephesians 2:8-9** (NIV) <sup>8</sup> *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God* <sup>9</sup> *not by works, so that no one can boast.*
- No matter how good we can be, we will still be in **NEED** of a Savior.

"Christian" has been relegated to mean someone who believes in a god and goes to some kind of church. Yet, the term "Christian" was first designed to designate someone who is a "Christ-follower" (see **Acts 11:26**). Many people call themselves Christian today, but sadly they do not live like they are a "Christ-follower".

- Even though there are less and less people going to church, there are more and more people interested in the **SUPERNATURAL** to satisfy their spiritual thirst.
- The Bible tells us that sin keeps us **locked up** in a **PRISON without Christ**. **Galatians 3:22** says, *"But the Scriptures declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to all those who believe."*
- What is sin? Sin can be defined as **REBELLION** against God, His ways, and His plans for us. (see **James 4:17** and **Romans 3:23**)
- Everyone is a prisoner of sin, but we can receive God's promise of freedom only **by believing in Jesus Christ**. We all needed a second chance and God gives us all another chance in the person of Jesus Christ. (see **John 3:16**)

### So why did Jesus come?

#1 Jesus came to **RESCUE** us from a life of sin. (see **Romans 5:8**)

- **Romans 5:8** (NIV) *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
- We deserved to die and spend eternity in hell **as the just punishment** for our sin, but Jesus paid the penalty for our sin when He sacrificed His life on the cross to be our Savior.
- **Ephesians 2:4-5** (NIV) <sup>4</sup> *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,* <sup>5</sup> *made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by **grace** you have been saved.*

#2 Jesus came for a **RESPONSE**. (see **1 John 1:9-10**)

- **1 John 1:9-10** (NIV) *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* <sup>10</sup> *If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.*
- If you think you're a good person, you won't think you have any need of God.
- We need to respond to Christ by first **ADMITTING we are a sinner, then BELIEVING** that Jesus died for our sins and has been resurrected from the dead that we might be forgiven and have eternal life and then **CONFESSING our faith in Christ**. (see **Romans 10:9**)

#3 Jesus came for a **RELATIONSHIP**. (see **Colossians 1:21-23**)

- **Colossians 1:21-23** (NIV) <sup>21</sup> *Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.* <sup>22</sup> *But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—* <sup>23</sup> *if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and **do not move from the hope held out in the gospel.***
- The only way we can continue in our faith is if we establish and **CULTIVATE** a relationship with Christ.
- **Jesus did not die to establish a world religion or for you to become a member of a church, but Jesus died so each one of us can enjoy a PERSONAL relationship with God**. God wants you to repent of your sins and follow His thoughts and ways. God wants you to know Him and the only way to do that is to spend time with Him daily.

#4 Jesus came so that we can be His **REPRESENTATIVES** to the world. (see **2 Corinthians 5:20, Romans 10:13-15, and 2 Corinthians 6:2**)

- We were not designed to **HOARD** the message of the Gospel, but we were designed to **REPRESENT** it to others.
- The most loving thing we can do is to communicate the truth to people around us because without the truth of God's love and mercy available to them through Jesus there is no chance that they can ever be saved.
- If the church does not fulfill its purpose, we are just a club.
- **We say we believe that Jesus SAVES, but we live like we believe that Jesus SAVED**. Jesus didn't come **TO JUST SAVE YOU**, but He came to save the lost and those that don't know they are lost.

Jesus didn't die so that we can be Christians and sit in church, but He died for the lost and that the lost may find Him. (see **John 10:9**)

- **Live like Jesus still SAVES!**